

The Brethren Evangelist,

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Editorial.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

St. Paul declares in Romans 8 : 9 that "If a man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." John says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5 : 12. And the words of Jesus are "Abide in me, and I in you, as the branch can not bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." John 15 : 4.

These selections from the inspired record are very clear and explicit in their teaching. Their meaning can not be mistaken; nor can their import be lightly regarded. The unequivocal declaration in these passages of Scripture is beyond the power of criticism to disparage or avert.

THE UNBELIEVER.

What an overwhelming appeal to the unconverted! What an abject picture of the Christless soul's condition! Here Jesus Christ is presented as the one only impersonation of life in the individual believer. To reject him, to not believe in him, is therefore to cut off the absolute source of life. God gave to him the capability of having life within himself and to impart that life to those who believe in him. A man by rejecting Christ, freely and voluntarily, refuses life and at the same time the source from whence continuous life-giving power comes. And so to be Christless, without the Son, is to be without life.

Herein lies the ground of appeal to the sinner. He will see that within himself he is unable to supply the dynamics of eternal life; that he possesses no meritorious quality of life acquired by his own effort; and that no compensating element obtains in any work of his own hands. He will see, too, in the experience of his own soul while in a state of unbelief, that he is utterly dependent upon his own power for help and hope; that peace and trust are strangers to him because he knows no one but self to give an answer to the questions of the future life.

The experience of the unbeliever proves how futile and inadequate is the power of *self* to save a soul from spiritual death. Christ, the life-giver, and life-sustainer, by his continuous indwelling, is the earnest of immortality, glorious and ineffable.

THE BELIEVER.

And now I am led to apply these words to the believer. What mockery of sacred things for any man to claim the presence of the indwelling Christ, to boast of being a living branch upon the life-giving vine, when he has not the Spirit of Christ!

If any good reader can give a way by which we may know that we possess the Christ-spirit other than by the Word of God the writer would be pleased to learn it. The Word of God alone must be, absolutely and invariably, the ultimate source of appeal in Spiritual matters.

Whatever specific interpretation may be given the term, "Spirit of Christ" in the quotation from Romans, this much is most certainly true, that the spirit of Christ in a man will show itself to be characteristically Christ-like. Oh, how many times the Son of God is crucified afresh and put to an open shame by the manifested spirit of a Christless professor, and this in the presence of scoffing and pitying angels!

Dear brother and sister, let us put ourselves to the test just now. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Are the several things enjoined upon the disciples here characteristic of Jesus' own life? Did he show a spirit to the world such as these words demand of us? He did, blessed be his name! How about these words in your life? Does the world read in your conduct the fulfillment of these simple words? Boast not thyself, oh soul, of possessing the spirit of Christ until these teachings of the Master have become a living witness in your life for him.

But, dear reader, let us take just one more test statement from the lips of Jesus. He said: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

These words from the lips of Jesus are again most beautifully indicative of his own spirit. He loved his own in the world

unto the end,—unto the cruel and unutterable anguish of a Golgothic death.

How do these words find expression in your life, my brother? Have you manifested before the world the brotherly love which must be characteristic of every member of Christ's body?

When the world witnessed the betrayal kiss you gave your brother on Sunday morning; or when you greeted your sister with "Oh, how glad I am to see you," when you had just decried her to an unconverted onlooker; when hatred rankles in your bosom so easily seen by any observer, what marvel the world cries, to the utter discomfiture of all Christian professors, "Behold *how* these love one another?" Oh, my friend, let these words of Jesus lay hold upon your soul. Let their spirit be your every inspiration. In all your dealings with your brethren, let these words control. Be assured that they will stand against you in awful condemnation if their import is not observed.

M.

TO THE BRETHREN EAST OF PITTSBURG.

The following letter explains itself. Read it.

BALTIMORE & OHIO LINES.

MR. J. E. ROOP, Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR:—It will afford us much pleasure to make a rate of two cents per mile from any point on our line (the B. & O. Ed.,) to the junction points with other lines for parties of ten or more travelling together on one ticket.

If you can give me the location of such parties, and the names I will take pleasure in arranging the matter with them so that they can call on our ticket agents.

Yours truly,

CHAS. O. SCULL, G. P. A.

Baltimore, Md.

Those who are interested can arrange with Mr. Scull by writing to him. Buy your tickets to the nearest point on the Penn. lines west of Pittsburg from which place you can purchase a ticket to Eagle Lake, Ind., at one fare for the round trip.

THE PENN. LINES.

For companies of ten or more travelling together a rate of two cents a mile is granted. Buy a ticket at this rate to Rochester, Pa. From this point buy your tickets to Eagle Lake, Ind., at the rate of one fare for the round trip. Parties along the Penn. lines can act according to these instructions.